Export of Alumina

2075. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to export alumina produced in National Aluminium plant at Damonjodi in Koraput district, Orissa;

(b) if so, the country which is importing alumina from NALCO plant; and

(c) the details of the order placed by that country for aluminium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) NALCO has contracted for export of their surplus production of alumina with North Korea for about 10,000 tonnes and with M|s Hydro Trading SA Lausanue (Switzerland) for about 200,000 tonnes reportedly for Bahrain.

Violation of FERA by M|s Hodex Engineering, Pune

2076. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Special Dirctor of Enforcement Directorate had adjudicated the case of M|s. Hodek Engineering, Pune, under FERA violation;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the M|s. Hodek Engineering, Pune have been found guilty of acquiring foreign exchange worth Rs. 6.50 lakhs outside India; and

(c) whether Government have initiated any action against the Company for recovery of fine imposed on them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALERIO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Special Director of Enforcement had adjudicated the case of M|s. Hodek Engineerig Pvt. Ltd., Pune and found the company guilty of contravention of the provisions of Sec. 8(1) of FERA, 1973 for acquiring and transferring an amount of Rs. 6.50 lakhs (approx.) and imposed a penalty of Rs. 2.60 lakhs.

(c) The penalty was deposited by the Company on 29-1-1988.

Export of Commercial Vehicles

2077. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy to export commercial vehicles in view of the glut in the market;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the names of the countries with which negotiations for their export are in progress; and

(d) what are the details of the recommendations of Abid Hussain Committee in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Commercial vehicles have been identified as a thrust item for exports. A number of measures have been taken to boost export of engineering goods including commercial vehicles. These inter alia include liberalisation of licensing procedures and technology import, a new regime of Cash Compensatory Support to compensate for the cascading effect of domestic taxation, access to raw materials and consumables at international competitive prices reduction in the interest rates of pre and post shipment credit, interest rebate on new term loans to units which export more than 25% of their production, assistance from export marketing fund for marketing activities abroad, introduction of new blanket exchange permit scheme to facilitate export promotion activities, grant of replenishment licences, duty drawback etc.

(c) Indian commercial vehicle manufacturers have been selling in Africa

and Asia and are new looking at new markets in some developing countries.

(d) There is no specific recommendation in regard to the export of Commercial Vehicles in the Abid Hussain Committee report.

Rationalisation of Tax System

2078. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are continuously trying to simplify and rationalize the tax system in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the measures being taken tole t the resulting tax system help the self-employed youth, women entrepreneurs and the physically handicapped people engaged in active entrepreneurship?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. It has been the constant endeavour of the Government to simplify and rationalize tax system in the country.

(b) The measures undertaken for simplification and rationalization of tax system are intended to benefit all. No special measures have been taken exclusively for the category of self-employed youth, women entrepreneurs or physically handicapped people engaged in active entrepreneurship. The Income Tax Act provides tax incentive to blind and physically handicapped persons by way of a deduction of a sum of Rs. 15,000|- from their gross annual income.

Assistance from Financial Institutions

2079. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of the Orissa Chief Minister that 'the eastern region has not received its due share of assistance from the All-India financial institutions' as published in the Telegraph dated the 22nd December, 1987;

(b) if so, to what extent the above statement is correct; and

(c) whether there is any shortfall, if so, what steps have been taken to correct the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Available data relating to cumulative per capita assistance disbursed to the States mentioned below by the Financial Institutions upto the end of March, 1987 are given below:

(in Rupees)

State	Per capita assistance dibursed
1. Bihar . . .	109 90
2. Orissa . .	328.85
3. Sikkim . . .	418.67
4. West Bengal . .	334.38
All India . .	425 41

State-wise distribution of assistance of financial institutions depends upon the number of applications for viable projects originating from different States and, *inter-alia,* locational decisions of entrepreneurs. Locational decisions of entrepreneurs in turn depend upon factors which include availability of skilled labour, power and other infrastructural facilities and proximity to markets.

With a view to encouraging industrialisation in specified backward area, institutions provide financial assistance on concessional terms to units set up in the backward areas.

Demand for Jharkhand State

2080. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the continuing agitation on the demand for a separate Jharkhand State; and